

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Before claim 1, change ~~CLAIMS~~ to I CLAIM:

Cancel claims 1-29 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute new claims 30-58 therefor:

Claims 1-29 (cancelled)

30. (new) Manually actuable inhaler (1) for pulverulent substances, in particular medicinal substances, in which inhaler, during the manual actuation, a defined discharge quantity (20') from a substance storage quantity (20) is apportioned out in a metering chamber (D) of the inhaler upstream of a discharge passage (21), for the purpose of providing an airborne discharge from a mouthpiece opening (14) of the inhaler at an end (b) of the discharge passage (21); wherein the inhaler further comprises a piston (8) which generates the discharge airstream, together with a cavity (17) in a body portion (15) of the piston, the cavity forming a substance storage chamber (SV) and the metering chamber (D); wherein a reduced pressure, which is generated during a return stroke of the piston (8), opens the metering chamber (D) toward the substance storage quantity (20), the base of the metering chamber

(D) is formed by an air-permeable membrane, and an airstream volume which results from the piston movement amounts to more than one hundred times but less than six hundred times the volume of the metering chamber (D).

31. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein the body portion (15), at an opposite end (b) from a lip (10) of the piston (8), forms the mouthpiece opening (14).

32. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein the discharge passage (21) is configured as a piston body portion inner tube (22), which extends in the center of the body portion (15) of the piston (8) - the piston being under spring loading - and the discharge quantity (20') collecting beneath the piston-side end (a) of the inner tube.

33. (new) Inhaler according to claim 32, wherein a manually actuated piston spring loading stroke is the discharge stroke, and the discharge quantity (20') collects during a spring-triggered return stroke of the piston (8).

34. (new) Inhaler according to claim 33, wherein the discharge quantity (20') collects in a recess (45) in a base (18) of the substance storage chamber (SV), and an upper edge (50) of the recess (45) alternates between a sealing

position and an opening position of the piston body portion inner tube.

35. (new) Inhaler according to claim 34, wherein a transfer into an opening position results from an elastic displacement of the base (18) of the substance storage chamber (SV) on account of a reduced pressure occurring behind the piston (8) during the return stroke of the piston.

36. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein a covering (47), which is air-permeable at least in the direction of the mouth opening (14), of a hole (46) is provided in a base (18) of the substance storage chamber (SV).

37. (new) Inhaler according to claim 36, wherein the base (18) and a recess (45) of the substance storage chamber (SV) are formed by an elastic membrane, a cup inner wall of which carries an insert part (48), onto an upper edge (50) of which the piston body portion inner tube (22) touches down in a sealing manner by means of a mating closure surface (49).

38. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein the piston (8) has a piston lip (10) which faces in the opposite direction to the direction of a return stroke, and

engages in a sliding manner against an inner wall (11) of the cylinder (3).

39. (new) Inhaler according to claim 36, wherein the permeability of the covering (47) in relation to the fineness of the grains of a powder in the storage chamber is such that a thin-layer powder quantity which drops onto the base (18) after a first opening movement of the base eliminates the air permeability (24) in the opening direction.

40. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein an inner tube (22) of the piston body portion extends to just before the mouthpiece opening (14) and leaves open, toward the wall of the surrounding piston body portion material (23), an air inflow passage which extends into the substance storage chamber (SV).

41. (new) Inhaler according to claim 32, wherein a cover (19), which is permeable to the inflow air, crosses the piston body portion inner tube (22) in a supporting manner on both sides and has a central hole (40) aligned with the discharge passage (21), is provided in the upper region of the substance storage chamber (SV).

42. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein the discharge passage (21) narrows in a funnel shape (21') in the direction of flow (arrow y) at the discharge quantity collection location.

43. (new) Inhaler according to claim 41, further comprising a valve body (43), which opens in the discharge direction, and is disposed in front of the central hole (40).

44. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein the inhaler has a response threshold for a manually actuated displacement of the piston.

45. (new) Inhaler according to claim 44, wherein the response threshold is formed at an annular body (53) of the piston body portion (15) on a rear side of the piston sleeve, which annular body (53) latches into a latching groove (55) in a cylinder wall (11) belonging to the piston (8).

46. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein the metering chamber (D) is formed by an end-side widening region of the discharge passage (21), which touches down onto an air-permeable membrane (47) and is lifted off during a spring return stroke.

47. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, wherein a boundary wall (58) of the metering chamber (D) widens frustoconically in the discharge direction (arrow y).

48. (new) Inhaler according to claim 47, wherein the boundary wall (58) of the metering chamber (D) consists of elastic material and is formed integrally with the base (18) of the substance storage chamber (SV).

49. (new) Inhaler according to claim 30, further comprising two air inflow passages (24) for the substance storage chamber (SV), which run on both sides of the central discharge passage (21) in a common plane with the latter.

50. (new) Inhaler according to claim 49, wherein the air inflow passages (24) are located in a center plane between waist-like supporting surface indentations (26).

51. (new) Manually actuatable inhaler (1) for pulverulent substances, in particular medicinal substances, in which inhaler, during the manual actuation, a defined discharge quantity (20') from a substance storage quantity (20) is apportioned out in a metering chamber (D) of the inhaler upstream of a discharge passage (21), for the purpose of

providing an airborne discharge from a mouthpiece opening (14) of the inhaler at an end (b) of the discharge passage (21), wherein the inhaler further comprises a piston (8) which generates the discharge airstream, together with a cavity (17) in a body portion (15) of the piston, the cavity forming a substance storage chamber (SV) and the metering chamber (D); wherein a reduced pressure, which is generated during a return stroke of the piston (8) opens the metering chamber (D) toward the substance storage quantity (20), the base of the metering chamber (D) is formed by an air-permeable membrane, and the metering chamber (D), in a basic position of the piston body portion (15), is open toward the substance storage chamber (SV).

52. (new) Inhaler according to claim 51, wherein the metering chamber (D) opens toward the substance storage chamber (SV) as a result of an idling stroke (LH) between the body portion (15) of the piston and a sleeve of the piston which forms the metering chamber (D).

53. (new) Inhaler according to claim 52, wherein the base (18) of the substance storage chamber (SV) is part of the piston sleeve and rests in a sliding manner against the inner wall of the piston body portion (15).

54. (new) Inhaler according to claim 51, wherein the metering chamber (D) is partially formed from a

recess (45) in a sleeve of the piston and partially comprises a valve cone (65) which touches down in a sealing manner onto an edge (50) of the recess (45) in the metering chamber (D) and narrows in the discharge direction.

55. (new) Inhaler according to claim 52, wherein the idling stroke (LH) is spring-triggered and is formed by virtue of a collar (68) of the piston sleeve projecting into a slot (69) of corresponding width on the inner wall of the piston body portion (15).

56. (new) Inhaler according to claim 52, wherein a cylinder wall (11) for the piston sleeve is formed by a connection piece (59) of a baseplate (4).

57. (new) Inhaler according to claim 56, further comprising a spring (12) that extends on the outside of the connection piece (59), in an annular gap between connection piece (59) and outer wall (67) of the inhaler (1).

58. (new) Inhaler according to claim 54, wherein the valve cone (65) has lips (71) which are cut free and face in the discharge direction, the cut ends of which lips are thickened.